



EUROPE: In England, wet weather (18-80 mm) hampered summer crop maturation and winter grain planting, while scattered showers (13-68 mm) in far western and far eastern France caused some delays in sunflower harvesting. Elsewhere in western Europe, mostly dry weather favored summer crop maturation and harvesting across the Benelux countries, central France, Spain, and Portugal. In contrast, moderate to locally heavy rain (25-90 mm) fell in southern Germany and northern Italy, halting corn and sunflower harvesting and reportedly causing localized flooding. Dry weather covered the remainder of central Europe, helping fieldwork in southern Scandinavia, northern Germany, and southern Italy. In southeastern Europe, much-needed rain (12-74 mm) fell across Slovenia, Croatia, much of Serbia, Bulgaria, and extreme southern Romania, boosting topsoil moisture for winter grain planting. Nevertheless, substantial follow-up rains are needed in these areas to significantly improve moisture supplies and eliminate long-term drought. Mostly dry weather maintained severe drought in northern Serbia, Hungary, and the remainder of Romania, delaying winter grain planting, while dry weather in Greece favored cotton in the open-bolls stage of development. Farther north, scattered showers (12-47 mm) in southern Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia hampered summer crop maturation and delayed winter grain planting. Temperatures in northeastern Europe averaged about 2 to 4 degrees C below normal, slowing crop development. Elsewhere in Europe, near-normal temperatures (within 2 degrees C of normal) prevailed.